

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 040964
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:AF/E:GWSCOTT
APPROVED BY:AF/E:GWSCOTT
AF/E:RPOST
S/S-O:
-----035413 160515Z /13
O 160452Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 1377

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040964

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOGADISCIO 0290 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
USUN NW YORK FEB 14.
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0290

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, SO, ET
SUBJ: SIAD STRESSES CEASEFIRE; POSES NO OBJECTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL
L
INITIATIVE

REF: SECTO 02005

1. PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE RECEIVED ME THIS MORNING FEB 14
SHORTLY AFTER MY REQUEST FOR AN IMMEDIATE MEETING. I REVIEWED
THE POINTS FOR SETTLEMENT IN THE OGADEN SET FORTH IN STATE 037063
AND ADDED OUR BELIEF THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE
SECURITY COUNCIL THIS WEEK. SIAD REPLIED HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO
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THAT STEP. HE ADDED THAT THE SOMALIS THEMSELVES HAD ALREADY
INITIATED SOME MOVES IN THIS DIRECTION.

2. THE SOMALI LEADER THEN SAID HE WAS CONSTANTLY IN POSITION TO
TALK WITH THE ETHIOPIANS AT ANY TIME OR ANY PLACE REGARDING
NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TO A CEASEFIRE. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS OF
COURSE DISAPPOINTED THAT SOMALIA, A SMALL NATION, WAS EQUATED

WITH A SUPER POWER BENT ON IMPOSING ITS WILL ON THE SOMALI PEOPLE, A CONSEQUENCE HE EXPLAINED OF REJECTING OUT OF HAND THE GEOPOLITICAL OBJECTIVES OF MOSCOW. SIAD CONTINUED, THESE OBJECTIVES ARE NOT OURS, YOURS, THE WEST'S, OR THE MODERATE ARAB'S OR THE EGYPTIANS'.

3. LOOKING TO THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, SIAD CONTINUED, "IT APPEARS WE MAY LOOSE (MILITARILY); WE CANNOT FIGHT AGAINST MODERN SOVIET WEAPONRY, TANKS, AND AIRCRAFT". SIAD SAID IF THERE WERE NOT A CEASEFIRE FOLLOWED BY NEGOTIATIONS, SOMALIS WOULD CONTINUE TO RESIST THE WARSAW PACT NATIONS WHICH ARE DETERMINED TO DICTATE THEIR SOLUTION TO "OUR AFRICA PROBLEM". HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING LET US DISCUSS A CEASEFIRE FIRST, "GET THAT AGREED", AND THEN WE CAN GO ON TO OTHER THINGS.

4. THE SOMALI PRESIDENT WAS RELAXED AND CORDIAL THROUGHOUT THE BRIEF MEETING. OTHER THAN HIS HABIT OF CHAIN SMOKING, HE DISPLAYED NO UNUSUAL STRAIN OR FATIGUE.

5. COMMENT: POLEMICS ASIDE, I SENSE A READINESS IN SIAD TO FACE SOME OF THE UNPALATABLE RESULTS OF THE WAR IN THE OGADEN PROVIDING HE CAN AVOID BOTH A CRUSHING DEFEAT FOR THE SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY AND RETRIBUTION AGAINST OGENDENI SOMALIS. HIS STATEMENT THAT HE IS PREPARED TO ENTER DISCUSSIONS AT ANYTIME OR ANYPLACE IS THE MOST UNEQUI-

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VOCAL POSITION HE HAS YET TAKEN ON THE OPENING OF TALKS. THE PRIORITY HE PLACES ON A CEASEFIRE IS CLEAR, AND SELF-SERVING, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE HE WOULD REFUSE TO GO TO THE TABLE BEFORE A CEASEFIRE WERE DECLARED IF HE THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE ACHIEVED EARLY IN THE DISCUSSIONS.
LOUGHRAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE040964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/E:GWSCOTT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780070-1064
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780246/aaaabmrd.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e26f47d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 SECTO 2005
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3570674
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIAD STRESSES CEASEFIRE; POSES NO OBJECTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL INITIATIVE
TAGS: PBOR, SO, ET
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e26f47d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014